

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 16, 2008
POSITION: Neutral, note concerns

BILL NUMBER: SB 1186
AUTHOR: J. Scott

BILL SUMMARY: Teacher Credentialing and Recruitment Reforms

This bill is intended to make numerous, clean-up amendments related to teacher recruitment, quality, and retention. These changes include: 1) exempting specified credential holders from the basic skills proficiency exam requirement; 2) providing alternate routes for certification to teach limited-English-proficient pupils, and 3) modifying selection criteria for the Alternative Certification program.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would likely result in reduced revenues to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) by exempting certain credential applicants from the California Basic Education Skills Test. This could also drive pressure for a credentialing fee increase to compensate for the loss in revenues. Furthermore, by allowing the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards English as a Second Language certification as an alternate route for meeting the certification requirements for teaching English learners, this bill could increase demand on the National Board Certification Program and thereby result in additional Proposition 98 General Fund costs. The costs are unknown and would depend on the number of candidates that opt to take this route to obtain a certificate authorizing instruction to limited-English-proficient pupils. Assuming an increase of 240 candidates (20 percent of existing participants and assuming they teach at a low-performing school) at the current grant amount of \$5,000 per participant, the annual cost pressure would be \$1.2 million in Proposition 98 General Fund.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill, but notes the following concern:

- By allowing the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards English as a Second Language certification as an alternate route for meeting the certification requirements for teaching English learners, this bill could effectively increase demand on the National Board Certification Incentive Program and thereby result in additional Proposition 98 General Fund costs.

The changes proposed in SB 1104 attempt to address California's urgent need to attract and retain excellent teachers by reducing barriers to the preliminary credential for individuals who have demonstrated basic skill proficiency through alternative achievement and by providing credentialed teachers alternate routes to certification to teach English learners. We understand that the author's office intends on convening workgroup meetings consisting of legislative staff, stakeholders, and representatives of the Administration to discuss the bill's provisions and additional amendments as necessary. Therefore, there will likely be an opportunity to address potential concerns with the bill.

Analyst/Principal (0352) L. Del Castillo	Date	Program Budget Manager Jeannie Oropeza	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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BILL NUMBER

SB 1186

		SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
Code/Department		LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue		CO	PROP							Fund
Type		RV	98	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	Code
6110/Dept of Educ		LA	Yes		--	C	\$1,200	C	\$1,200	0001
6360/Teacher Cred		SO	No		-----	See Fiscal Analysis	-----			0408
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>									
0001	General Fund									
0408	Test Development and Admin Acct, Tc Fd									